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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## **MURDERS DOWN IN 2017; ROBBERIES AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS UP**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The murder rate in Memphis/Shelby County dropped significantly in 2017 compared to 2016, according to preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) released today by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.

The preliminary figures show a 15.6 percent drop in the murder rate countywide and a 10 percent drop within the city of Memphis.

Among all major violent crimes (murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults), the biggest jump was in the aggravated assault category, with a 9.3 percent increase both countywide and in Memphis. In addition, the robbery rate increased 7.4 percent countywide and 8.4 percent in Memphis. The sheer volume of reported aggravated assault and robbery incidents resulted in an increase in the overall major violent crime rate of 7.9 percent countywide and 8.3 percent in Memphis.

Among all major property crimes (burglaries, auto thefts and other felony thefts), the largest increase was in the auto theft category, with a 20.4 percent increase in all of Shelby County and a 23.9 percent increase in Memphis compared to 2016. (Reported burglaries remained fairly steady, with an increase of less than 1 percent).

The rate of reported domestic violence incidents went up compared to 2016 – 2.7 percent in the entire county and 4.1 percent in Memphis.

The overall crime rate measures 54 different categories of crime tracked by the TBI. Countywide in 2017, the overall crime rate was up 6 percent countywide and 6.3 percent in Memphis compared to 2016.

In all key categories (major violent crime, major property crime, domestic violence and overall crime), 2017 rates for both Shelby County and Memphis were below the 2006 rates, which is the baseline year used by the Crime Commission because the first Operation: Safe Community plan was launched in 2007.

“The drop in murders is encouraging. The overall level of violence remains unacceptable. Implementation of a number of key steps this year in the Operation: Safe Community crime plan can help drive down the level of violence,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute.

“Parts of the Operation: Safe Community plan that we expect to be implemented this year include an increase in law enforcement officers to deploy in a data-driven manner, expansion of the Multi-agency Gang Unit, and the violence intervention or

focused deterrence **initiative patterned** after successful efforts in other cities such as Boston,” said District Attorney Amy Weirich.

Weirich chairs the Operation: Safe Community crime plan, the implementation of which is spearheaded by the Crime Commission.

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**About the Crime Statistics:** In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. An incident is defined in TIBRS as “one or more offenses committed by the same offender or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place.” Reported major violent crime and domestic violence offenses, however, uniquely refer to a victim count versus an incident count. All rates are calculated based on per 100,000 population.

**About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission ([www.memphiscrime.org](http://www.memphiscrime.org)):** Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that “quarterbacks” the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

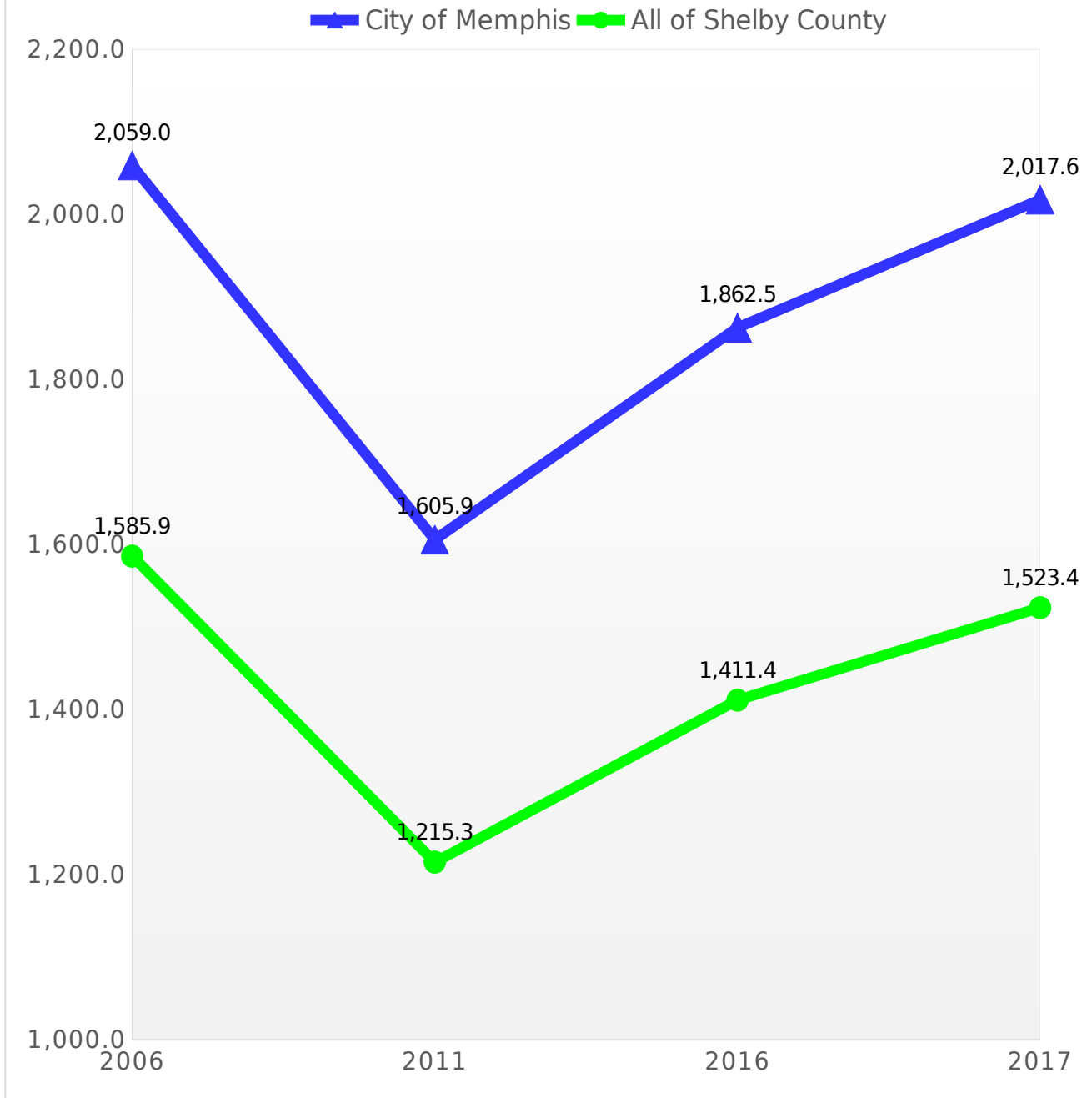
**About Operation: Safe Community ([www.operationsafecommunity.org](http://www.operationsafecommunity.org)):**

Launched in 2007, Operation: Safe Community (OSC), spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative.

Operation: Safe Community is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.

**About the Public Safety Institute ([www.memphis.edu/psi/](http://www.memphis.edu/psi/)):** The Public Safety Institute of the University of Memphis is an interdisciplinary part of the University community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety. It is housed in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Bill Gibbons serves as executive director.

# **MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME** **JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017** **(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>**



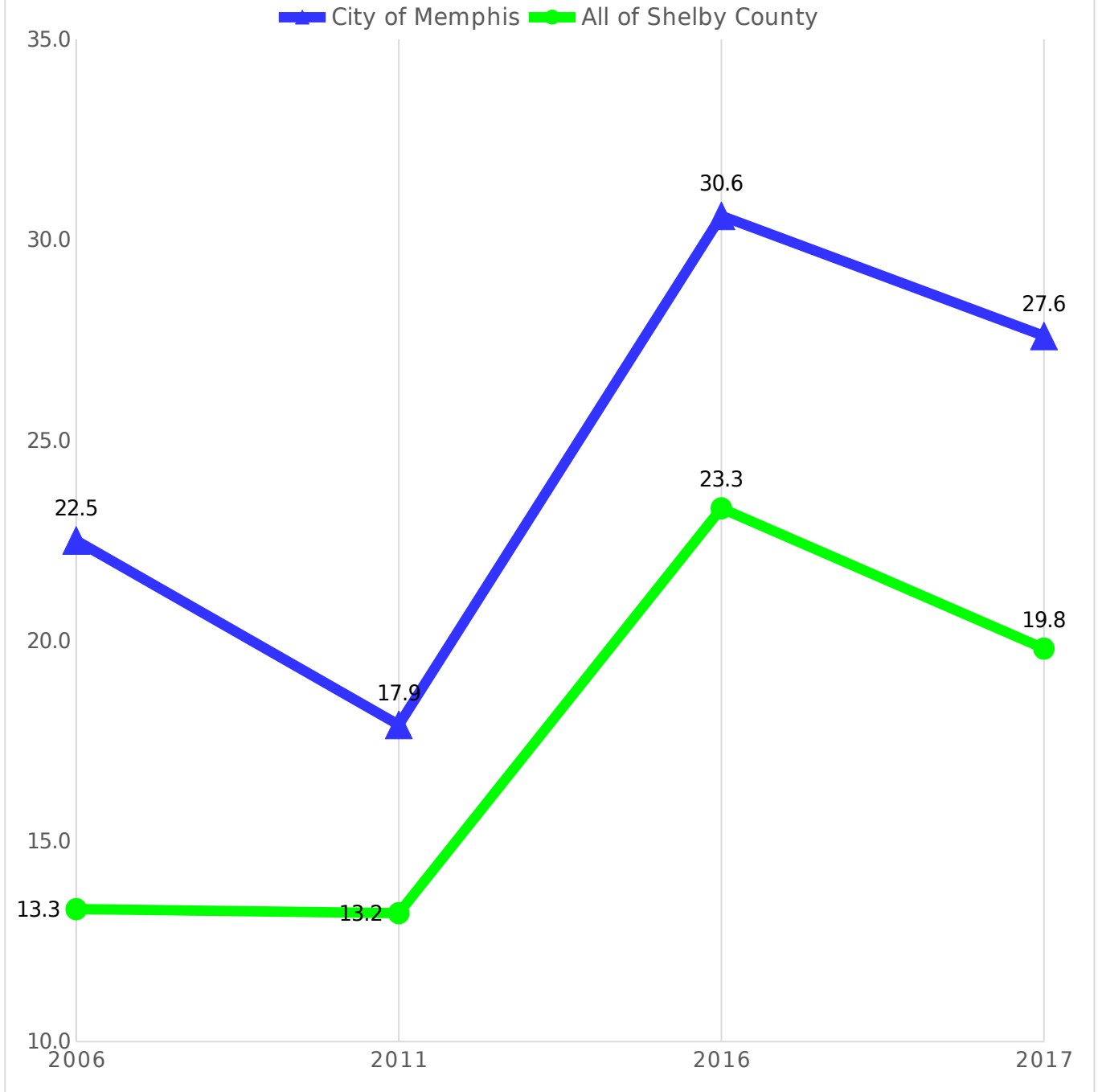
<sup>1</sup> Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 figure is a decrease of 2.0 percent from 2006 and an increase of 8.3 percent from 2016 in the City of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2017 figure is a decrease of 2.0 percent from 2006 and an increase of 7.0 percent from 2016 in

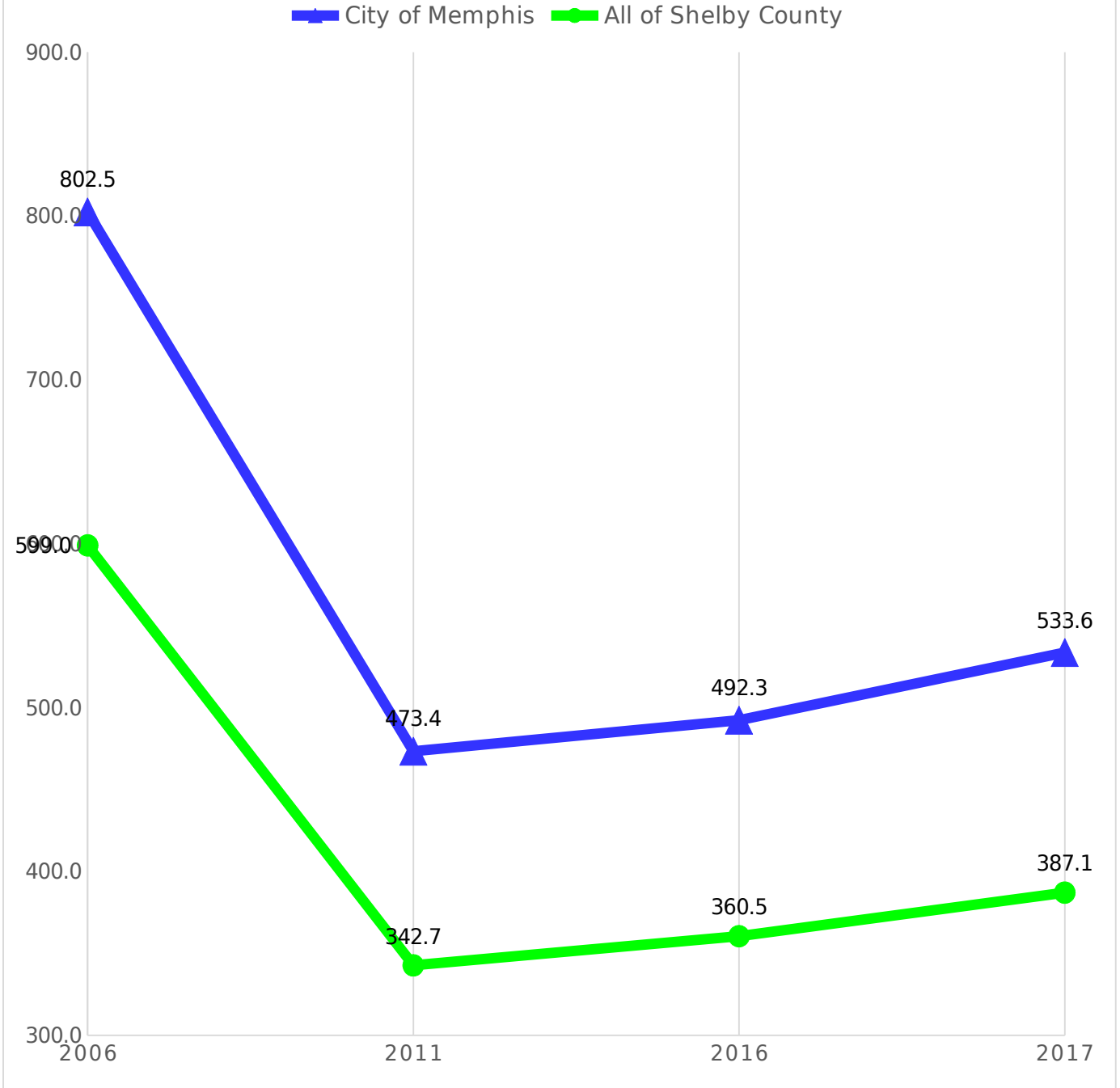
# REPORTED MURDERS JANUARY - December 2017 (RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)



<sup>1</sup> The 2017 figure is an increase of 22.4 percent from 2006 and an decrease of 10.0 percent from 2016 in the City of Memphis.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 figure is an increase of 19.0 percent from 2006 and an decrease of 15.1 percent from 2016 in all of Shelby County.

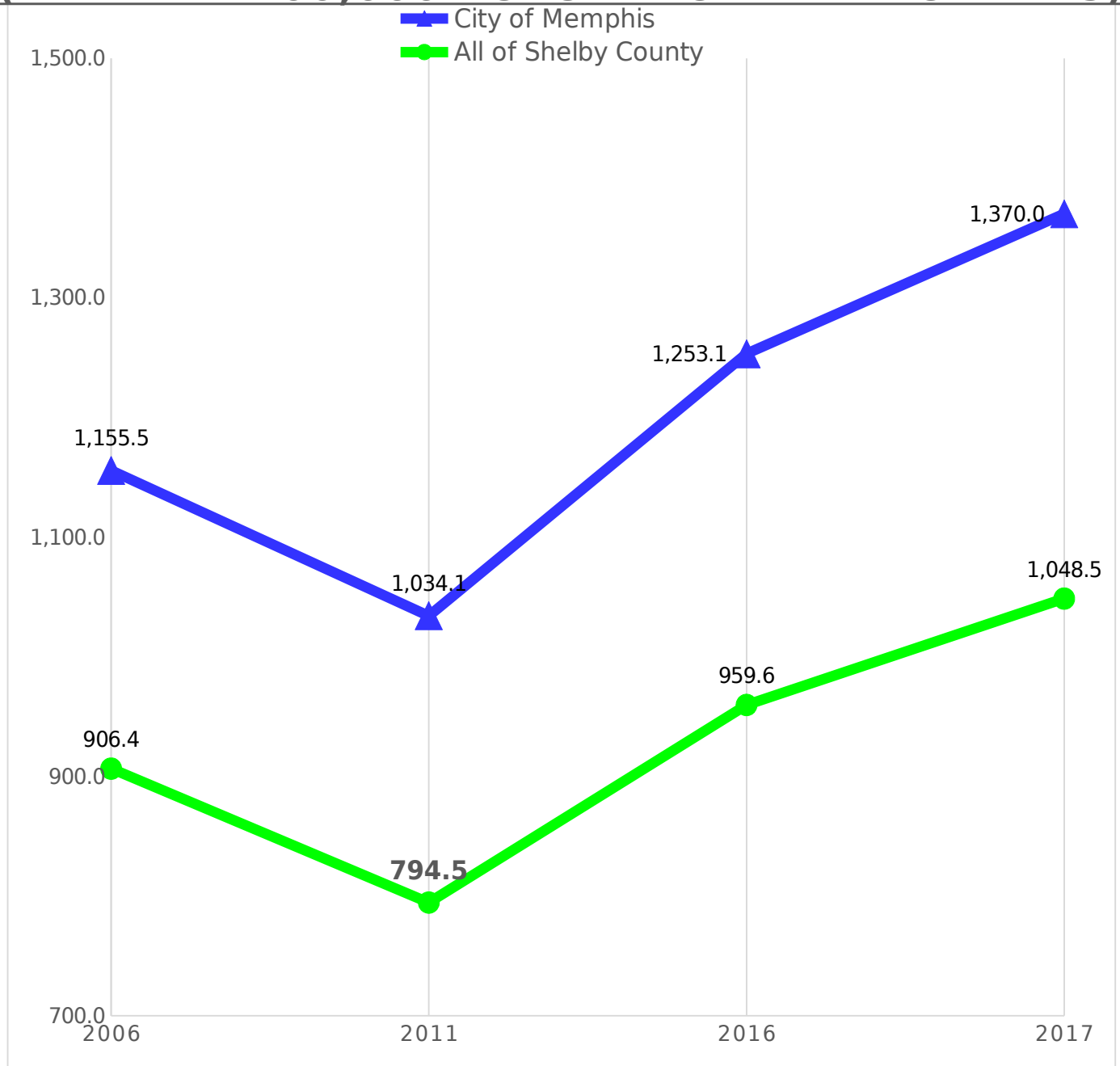
# REPORTED ROBBERIES JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017 (RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)



<sup>1</sup> The 2017 figure is an decrease of 33.5 percent from 2006 and an increase of 8.4 percent from 2016 in the City of Memphis.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 figure is an decrease of 35.4 percent from 2006 and an increase of 7.4 percent from 2016 in all of Shelby County.

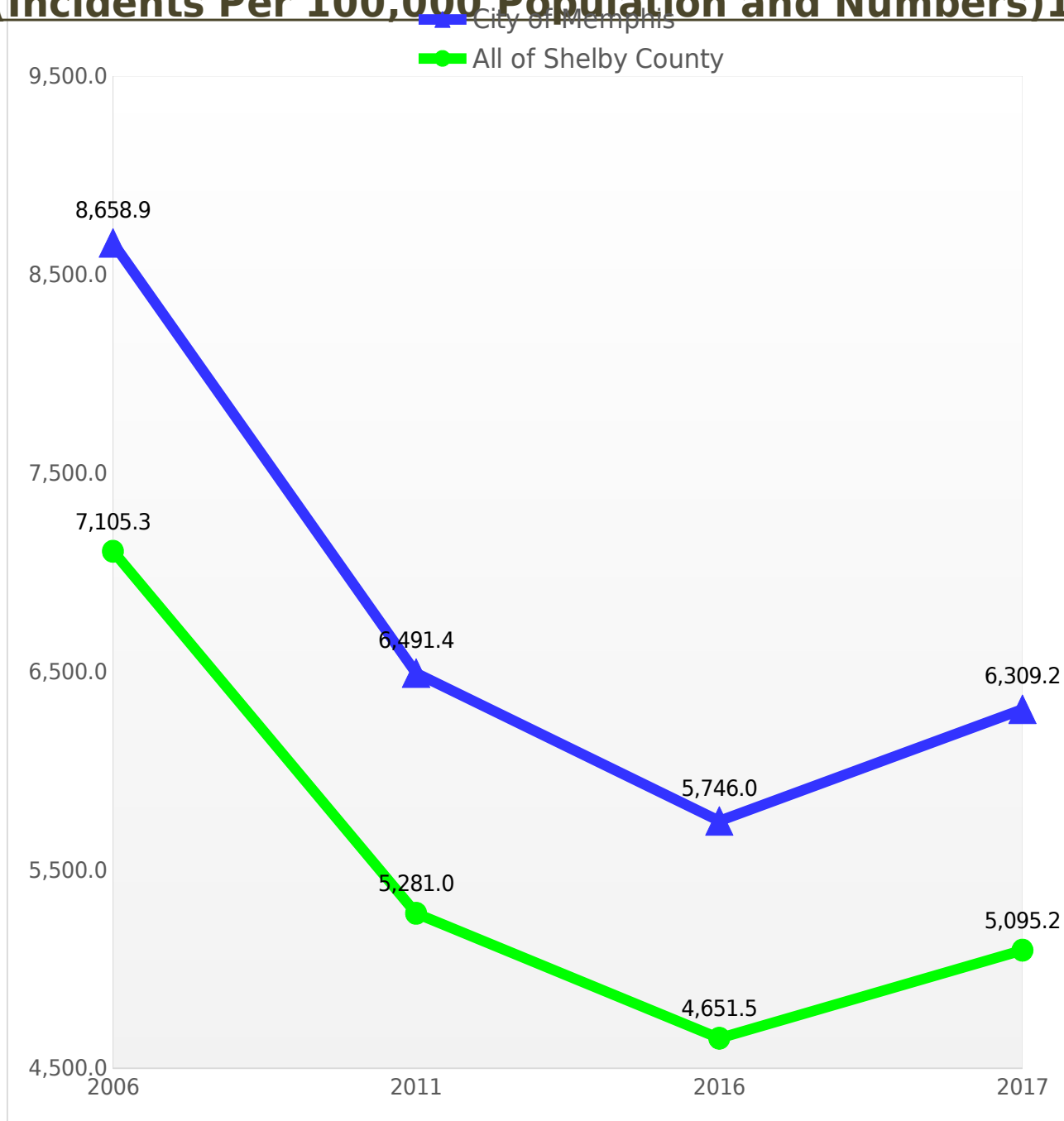
# REPORTED AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS JANUARY - December 2017 (RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)



<sup>1</sup> The 2017 figure is an increase of 18.6 percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.3 percent from 2016 in the City of Memphis.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 figure is an increase of 15.7 percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.3 percent from 2016 in all of Shelby County.

# **MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME** **JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017** **(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts.

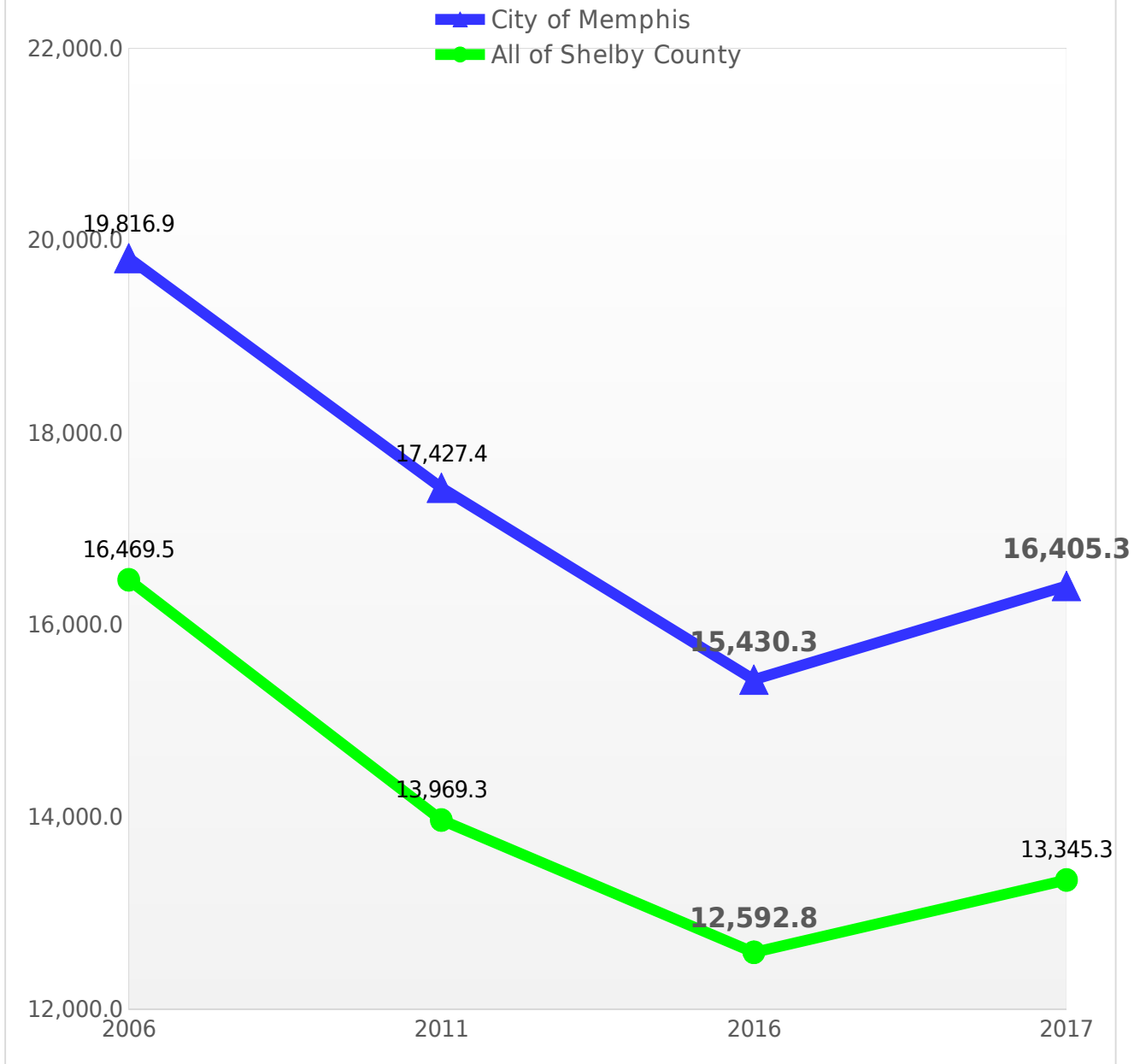
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 figure is a 27.1 percent decrease from 2006 and a 9.8 percent increase from 2016 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2017 figure is a 28.3 percent decrease from 2006 and a 9.5 percent increase from 2016 in all of



# OVERALL CRIME JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate categories of “Group A crimes” tracked by the T.B.I.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 figure is a 17.2 percent decrease from 2006 and a 6.3 percent increase from 2016 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2017 figure is a 19.0 percent decrease from 2006 and a 6.0 percent increase from 2016 for

**Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017**

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder	16.6	13.2	23.3	19.8	19.0%	50.2%	-15.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	63.9	65.0	68.1	68.1	6.5%	4.8%	0.0%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	906.4	794.5	959.6	1048.5	15.7%	32.0%	9.3%
Robbery	599.0	342.7	360.5	387.1	-35.4%	13.0%	7.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	1585.9	1215.3	1411.4	1523.4	-3.9%	25.4%	7.9%
Burglary	2012.1	1564.5	1096.2	1093.6	-45.6%	-30.1%	-0.2%
Theft Offenses	4291.7	3306.7	3151.8	3515.9	-18.1%	6.3%	11.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	801.5	409.7	403.5	485.7	-39.4%	18.5%	20.4%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	7105.3	5281.0	4651.5	5095.2	-28.3%	-3.5%	9.5%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	2699.3	2811.4	2246.2	2260.4	-16.3%	-19.6%	0.6%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	742.2	682.0	525.2	501.0	-32.5%	-26.5%	-4.6%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	193.7	172.5	148.5	175.6	-9.3%	1.8%	18.2%
Domestic Violence	2257.6	2462.4	2094.5	2150.8	-4.7%	-12.7%	2.7%
Total Group A Offenses	16469.5	13969.3	12592.8	13345.3	-19.0%	-4.5%	6.0%

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2016 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	920,106	933,011	934,603	934,603

Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES							
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder	153	123	218	185	20.9%	50.4%	-15.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	588	606	636	636	8.2%	5.0%	0.0%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	8,340	7,413	8,968	9,799	17.5%	32.2%	9.3%
Robbery	5,511	3,197	3,369	3,618	-34.3%	13.2%	7.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	14,592	11,339	13,191	14,238	-2.4%	25.6%	7.9%
Burglary	18,513	14,597	10,245	10,221	-44.8%	-30.0%	-0.2%
Theft Offenses	39,488	30,852	29,457	32,860	-16.8%	6.5%	11.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	7,375	3,823	3,771	4,539	-38.5%	18.7%	20.4%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	65,376	49,272	43,473	47,620	-27.2%	-3.4%	9.5%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	24,836	26,231	20,993	21,126	-14.9%	-19.5%	0.6%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	6,829	6,363	4,909	4,682	-31.4%	-26.4%	-4.6%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,782	1,609	1,388	1,641	-7.9%	2.0%	18.2%
Domestic Violence	20,772	22,974	19,575	20,101	-3.2%	-12.5%	2.7%
Total Group A Offenses	151,537	130,335	117,693	124,726	-17.7%	-4.3%	6.0%

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Memphis, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder <sup>2</sup>	22.5	17.9	30.6	27.6	22.4%	54.5%	-10.0%
Rape <sup>2,3</sup>	78.4	80.6	86.6	86.4	10.2%	7.3%	-0.2%
Aggravated Assault <sup>2,4</sup>	1155.5	1034.1	1253.1	1370.0	18.6%	32.5%	9.3%
Robbery	802.5	473.4	492.3	533.6	-33.5%	12.7%	8.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>4</sup>	2059.0	1605.9	1862.5	2017.6	-2.0%	25.6%	8.3%
Burglary	2487.3	1978.2	1404.1	1417.5	-43.0%	-28.3%	0.9%
Theft Offenses	5152.4	3983.6	3835.0	4263.6	-17.3%	7.0%	11.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1019.2	529.6	506.8	628.1	-38.4%	18.6%	23.9%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	8658.9	6491.4	5746.0	6309.2	-27.1%	-2.8%	9.8%
Simple Assault <sup>5</sup>	3271.0	3581.6	2734.3	2764.9	-15.5%	-22.8%	1.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>6</sup>	756.6	791.5	537.9	509.4	-32.7%	-35.6%	-5.3%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>6</sup>	226.6	211.3	164.1	196.4	-13.3%	-7.1%	19.7%
Domestic Violence	2785.7	3155.3	2628.6	2736.7	-1.8%	-13.3%	4.1%
Total Group A Offenses	19816.9	17427.4	15430.3	16405.3	-17.2%	-5.9%	6.3%

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2016 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	665,512	655,440	652,717	652,717

Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Memphis, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES							
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder <sup>2</sup>	150	117	200	180	20.0%	53.8%	-10.0%
Rape <sup>2,3</sup>	522	528	565	564	8.0%	6.8%	-0.2%
Aggravated Assault <sup>2,4</sup>	7,690	6,778	8,179	8,942	16.3%	31.9%	9.3%
Robbery	5,341	3,103	3,213	3,483	-34.8%	12.2%	8.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>4</sup>	13,703	10,526	12,157	13,169	-3.9%	25.1%	8.3%
Burglary	16,553	12,966	9,165	9,252	-44.1%	-28.6%	0.9%
Theft Offenses	34,290	26,110	25,032	27,829	-18.8%	6.6%	11.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,783	3,471	3,308	4,100	-39.6%	18.1%	23.9%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	57,626	42,547	37,505	41,181	-28.5%	-3.2%	9.8%
Simple Assault <sup>5</sup>	21,769	23,475	17,847	18,047	-17.1%	-23.1%	1.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>6</sup>	5,035	5,188	3,511	3,325	-34.0%	-35.9%	-5.3%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>6</sup>	1,508	1,385	1,071	1,282	-15.0%	-7.4%	19.7%
Domestic Violence	18,539	20,681	17,157	17,863	-3.6%	-13.6%	4.1%
Total Group A Offenses	131,884	114,226	100,716	107,080	-18.8%	-6.3%	6.3%